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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/038,031	01/02/2002	Bill B. Williams JR.	WI49-001	7077

21567 7590 06/16/2005  
WELLS ST. JOHN P.S.  
601 W. FIRST AVENUE, SUITE 1300  
SPOKANE, WA 99201

EXAMINER

WOOD, KIMBERLY T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3632

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/038,031

Applicant(s)

WILLIAMS, BILL B.

Examiner

Kimberly T. Wood

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6,8,12 and 20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,10,11,13-19,21-27 and 29-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9,28,37 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

This is an office action for serial number 10/038,031, entitled Mobile Camper Support System, filed on January 2, 2002.

***Election/Restrictions***

Applicant's election with traverse of Species I drawn to figures 1-8 in the reply filed on February 28, 2005 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that all of the claims are generic. This is not found persuasive because traversal is based on the grounds that the embodiments are directed to a unitary concept and based on various policy arguments. These arguments are unpersuasive. The arguments set forth by the applicant (i.e., a want of a serious burden on the examiner, or inventions having the same classification) are arguments commonly set forth when traversing a restriction of the *invention*. (See MPEP 803). However, the examiner is requiring the applicant to elect between several disclosed species. A proper traversal of an election of species includes arguments that the species are not patentable over one another. What's more, if patentably different species are disclosed in the application, "... it is not necessary to show a separate status in the art or separate classification." (See MPEP 808.01(a)). While there is a policy of compact prosecution, the plain language of the rules set forth that an examiner may

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require an election of species between patentably different species (see MPEP 808.01(a); 37 CFR 1.146). The argument regarding excessive expense is unpersuasive since excessive is a relative concept. Furthermore, as the applicant is aware, a separate fee schedule has been provided for those claiming small-entity status. Finally, there is no policy to reduce the number of patents; in fact, an argument could be made that it is less confusing to have a separate patent for each distinct embodiment. Since the applicant has not submitted persuasive arguments that the embodiments are not distinct from one another, the requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claims 6, 8, 12, and 20 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on February 28, 2005. The claims include limitations such as a storage container, a camper support platform, a plurality of support wheel mounted within the plurality of support legs which are directed to species other than the elected species I figures 1-8 therefore the examiner has withdrawn them from further consideration.

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***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 7, 10, 11, 13-19, 21-27, and 29-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peters 5,395,202 in view of Oat-Judge 5,046,748. Peters teaches that it is known to have a supporting apparatus (figure 1) comprising a support framework (22 and 24), a support platform (36, 38), four support legs (20, 20' 18, and 18'), a plurality of support wheels (62) having a first and a second axis. Peters discloses all of the limitations of the claimed invention except for the bias force. Oat-Judge discloses a support framework (10), four support legs (18, 20, 22, and 24), a plurality of support wheels (32), a bias force (50). IT would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Peter to have made the supporting apparatus wherein the wheels and legs function with a bias force as taught by Oat-Judge for the purpose of allowing the supporting

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apparatus to be easily transported from one camper to another. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have modified Peters to have made the bias force a pneumatic bias force instead of a spring bias force because these two structures/biasing means were art-recognized equivalents at the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to substitute one for the other.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 9, 28, 37 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The prior art discloses conventional camper supports.

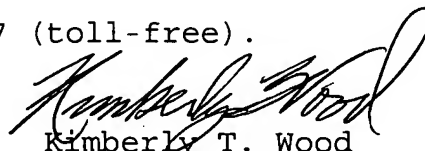
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly T. Wood whose telephone number is 571-272-6826. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leslie Braun can be

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reached on 571-272-6815. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Kimberly T. Wood  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3632

June 13, 2005